

### REMARKS

After entry of this amendment, claims 1, 3-12, 14-17, 19, 21-26, 28-31, and 36-48 are pending. In the present Office Action, claims 1, 7, 18, 19, 32, 33, and 35 were rejected. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claims 2-6, 8, 9, 20-23, and 34 were objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 10-12, 14-17, 24-26, and 28-31 are allowed.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the features of claim 2. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Claims 3-9, being dependent from claim 1, are similarly in condition for allowance. Applicants have amended claim 19 to include the features of claim 20, and thus claim 19 is in condition for allowance. Claims 21-23, being dependent from claim 19, are similarly in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully submit that each of claims 36-48 recites a combination of features not taught or suggested in the cited art. For example, claim 36 recites a combination of features including: "circuitry that is configured to transmit response packets in the response virtual channel, the response packets generated by the node in response to packets in any of the plurality of virtual channels that are defined to cause a response packet". Claims 37-42 depend from claim 36, and recite additional patentable combinations of features. Claim 43 recites a combination of features including: "a first node of the plurality of nodes is configured to transmit response packets in the response virtual channel, the response packets generated by the first node in response to receiving packets from other ones of the plurality of nodes in any of the plurality of virtual channels". Claims 44-48 depend from claim 43, and recite additional patentable combinations of features.

### CONCLUSION

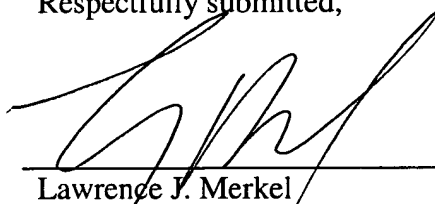
Applicants submit the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5500-46201/LJM.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

- ☒ Return Receipt Postcard
- ☐ Petition for Extension of Time
- ☐ Request for Approval of Drawing Changes
- ☐ Notice of Change of Address
- ☒ Fee Authorization Form authorizing a deposit account debit in the amount of \$108 for fees (\$108 for 6 excess dependent claims).
- ☐ Other:

Respectfully submitted,



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AGENT FOR APPLICANT(S)

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